

REMARKS

As recited in above-amended Claim 1, the present invention is a polyurea, comprising the reaction product of (1) an isocyanurate of isophorone diisocyanate (IPDI), or an isocyanurate of hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), or a combination thereof; and optionally, IPDI, HDI, or a combination thereof, with (2) isophorone diamine (IPD), the polyurea having a NCO/NH₂ ratio of 0.9 to 1.1 to 1, being a solid insoluble in solvents, and melting only above 240°C with decomposition.

The rejections of:

Claims 1, 2, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or (e) as anticipated by U.S. 6,462,162 or U.S. 5,786,439 (Van Antwerp et al);

Claims 1, 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 4,442,280 (Grögler); and

Claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 4,045,510 (Login), are all respectfully traversed.

None of the above-applied prior art references discloses or suggests an **isocyanurate** of a diisocyanate, reacted with isophorone diamine. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

The rejections of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to satisfy both the description and enablement requirements therein, are respectfully traversed. The term “average molecular mass” no longer appears in the claims. Applicants note that the original disclosure of an average molecular weight or mass of at least 5,000 was not intended to establish criticality in the “5,000” number, but merely to indicate that the claimed polyurea was not of a relatively low molecular weight. Because of the inability to precisely provide a line of demarcation between low molecular weight polyureas, and the polyureas of the present invention, the number “5,000” was chosen. However, the above-amended Claim 1,

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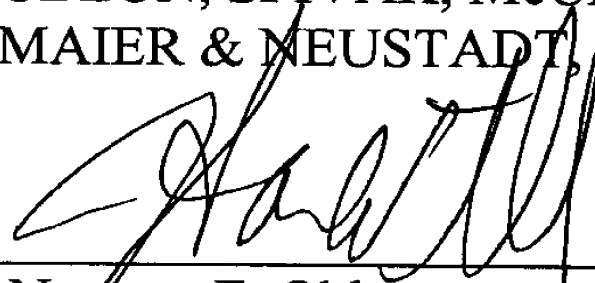
which now characterizes the polyurea in terms of physical state, insolubility, and melting point minimum with decomposition, sufficiently characterizes the presently-claimed polyurea.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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